

Message Text

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53

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 NRC-05 ERDA-05 EB-07 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 NSF-01 ACDA-05 INRE-00

SSO-00 /063 W

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O 031110Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4397

US MISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE 392

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3218

FOLLOWING TEL BOMBAY 0536 DTD 02 MAR 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0536

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH ENRG IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR NUCLEAR FUEL EXPORT LICENSES

REF: A) STATE 49812; B) NEW DELHI 3116

1. IN RESPONSE TO TELEPHONE INQUIRY FROM J.C.SHAH REGARDING STATUS OF NUCLEAR FUEL LICENSES, I EXPLAINED WE HAD JUST RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON (REFTEL), SUBSTANCE OF WHICH I WAS TRANSMITTING BY LETTER TO CHAIRMAN SETHNA. AFTER RECEIVING EXPLANATION OF GIST OF MESSAGE, SHAH ASKED THAT EMBASSY ALSO TRANSMIT IT TO SETHNA WHO WILL BE IN DELHI ALL DAY TOMORROW AND IS REACHABLE AT THE DEPT OF ATOMIC ENERGY'S OFFICE THERE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SHAH'S QUESTION AS TO BASIS FOR INTERVENTION I EXPLAINED THAT TELEGRAM DID NOT GIVE THAT INFORMATION BUT AS INTERVENER IS A WELL-KNOWN OPPONENT OF NUCLEAR POWER, IT WAS PROBABLY ON BASIS OF HARM TO ENVIRONMENT AND ANGER TO HEALTH AND SAFETY. SHAH ASKED IF IT COULD NOT ALSO PERTAIN TO NPT. SRESPONDED
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THAT I KNEW OF NO US LAW WHICH WOULD PERMIT INTERVENTION ON THOSE

GROUNDS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ASK INDIAN EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH BOTH STATE AND NRC TO DETERMINE HOW IAEC COULD HELP ENSURE THAT LICENSES ARE FORTHCOMING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED GUJARAT AND MAHARASHTRA POWER CUTBACKS, NOTING THAT WORSE MAY WELL BE IN STORE AND THAT NOBODY WANTED TO HAVE ONUS FALL ON DELAY IN SHIPMENTS OF NUCLEAR FUEL.

3. AS SETHNA HAS MADE CLEAR ON MANY OCCASIONS, HE PREFERS THAT ANY DEMARCHES ON NUCLEAR MATTERS BE CAST ON WRITTEN TERMS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. I HAD ALREADY PUT CABLE INTO FORM OF LETTER. NUMBERED PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL A IS PICKED UP ALMOST VERBATIM, EXCEPT PRONOUN "WE" BEGINNING SECOND SENTENCE IS CHANGED TO "US GOVT". FIRST PARAGRAPH OF MY LETTER BEGINS: QUOTE: I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INFORM YOU URGENTLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS JUST BEEN ADVISED THAT THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION HAS RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF ... END QUOTE. ONLY OTHER CHANGE IN THAT PARAGRAPH FROM TEXT OF TELEGRAM IS THAT WORD "TOMORROW" IS CHANGED TO "TODAY". CLOSING PARAGRAPH OF MY LETTER VARIES FROM PARAGRAPH NUMBER 3 OF REFTEL A. MY PARAGRAPH READS, QUOTE: THE DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES EARLY PUBLICITY BY INTERVENORS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ACTION. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT AND NRC CANNOT YET ASSESS CONSEQUENCES OF THIS ACTION ON ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES, EXECUTIVE BRANCH VIEWS ON LICENSE ISSUANCE ARE ALREADY WELL KNOWN TO YOU (EG, RECENT STATEMENT BY DR KISSINGER TRANSMITTED TO YOU BY MY LETTER OF FEBRUARY 9, 1976) AND WILL NOT BE ALTERED AS CONSEQUENCE OF PLANNED INTERVENTION. END QUOTE.

4. MY COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING READS: QUOTE: I WILL, OF COURSE, BE GLAD TO SEEK ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION THAT YOU MAY REQUIRE AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED CURRENTLY OF THIS ACTION AS IT DEVELOPS. S/WILLIAM F. COURTNEY, CONSUL GENERAL. END QUOTE. COURTNEY

UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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